

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 303569 TOSEC 250032

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 13036 ACTION SECSTATE 29 DEC 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 13036

NODIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG US VE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UNSC MEETING ON TERRORISM

REF STATE 303535

1. I MET WITH FAHMY TODAY TO CONVEY YOUR REACTION
TO HIS IDEA OF ENCOURAGING THE VENEZUELANS TO ASK FOR
A UNSC MEETING ON TERRORISM. I TOLD HIM WE INTEND
TO EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH THE VENEZUELANS, ALTHOUGH
WE ARE NOT SURE HOW SERIOUS THEY ARE ON TAKING THE
MATTER TO THE UN. AS WE UNDERSTAND THEIR PERTINENET
PUBLIC STATEMENTS, THEY APPEAR TO BE CALLING FOR A
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SPECIAL GA RATHER THAN SC MEETING. WE WILL THEREFORE

TRY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO ASK FOR AN EARLY SC MEETING
INSTEAD. I PASSED ON YOUR QUERY WHETHER FAHMY THOUGHT
THE EGYPTIANS OR SAUDIS MIGHT ALSO TAKE A QUIET
INITIATIVE WITH THE VENEZUELANS TO INDICATE AN
INTEREST ON THEIR PART IN AN EARLY SC MEETING ON
TERRORISM. IF THE MATTER IS TO BE TAKEN TO THE SC,
EXPEDITIOUS ACTION IS CLEARLY NEEDED.

2. FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED HE HAD NOT REALIZED VENE-
ZUELANS WERE TALKING ABOUT A GA MEETING. HIS IMMEDIATE
REACTION TO THE IDEA OF ASKING THE VENEZUELANS TO SHIFT
TO THE SC WAS THAT THIS MIGHT BE TOO TRANSPARENT. IT
WOULD AT ONCE BE SEEN AS A DELIBERATE EFFORT TO
SIDETRACK A SCHEDULED ME DEBATE AND COULD BACKFIRE.
IN HIS VIEW, AN UNGA DEBATE ON TERRORISM COULD SERVE
THE SAME PURPOSE HE INITIALLY HAD IN MIND. IT WOULD
PROBABLY BE A PROTRACTED DEBATE AND WOULD EXPOSE THE
ROLE OF THE PALESTINIANS IN THE OPEC INCIDENT. THIS,
HE BELIEVES, MIGHT ALREADY MAKE POSSIBLE A POSTPONEMENT
OF THE SC ME DEBATE.

3. FAHMY SAID HE DID NOT SEE HOW GOE CAN APPROACH
THE VENEZUELANS ON THIS SUBJECT. HE COULD NOT SPEAK
FOR THE SAUDIS. MOREOVER, IF ASKED ABOUT SUCH GA
MEETING, GOE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO SAY NO, BUT THIS
WILL DEPEND ENTIRELY UPON THE REACTION OF THE OTHER
ARAB STATES. EGYPT CANNOT BE OUT OF STEP WITH
THE OTHER ARAB STATES IN THIS MATTER. IF, HOWEVER, THE
VENEZUELANS CAN BE INDUCED TO ASK FOR AN UNGA MEETING,
HE THOUGHT HE WOULD STILL BE ABLE TO SAY A WORD TO THE
PLO THAT THIS IS THE WRONG TIME FOR A MAJOR MIDDLE
EAST DEBATE.

4. I TOLD FAHMY THAT I FOUND MOST DISAPPOINTING
HIS STATEMENT THAT GOE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO VOTE
AGAINST SUCH MEETING IF OTHER ARAB STATES DO. HIS
IDEA HAD BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE AND HAD BEEN MUCH
APPRECIATE. I THOUGHT GOE SHOULD BE CONSISTENT AND
SUPPORT CALL FOR SUCH MEETING. HE HAD FREQUENTLY
SPOKEN TO ME ABOUT GOE'S STRONG CONDEMNATION OF ACTS
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OF TERRORISM. IF GOE REALLY MEANS THIS, IT OUGHT TO
SUPPORT SUCH A MEETING. FAHMY INSISTED THAT GOE
DOES OPPOSE TERRORISM, BUT ALSO CONTENTED SINAI II HAS
ALREADY ISOLATED EGYPT TOO MUCH. GOE CANNOT, THEREFORE,
APPEAR TO "AMERICAN STOOGES" AND OUT OF STEP WITH OTHER
ARAB STATES.

5. I TOLD HIM ANY GOE ACTION TO DENOUNCE TERRORISM

IS HARDLY BEING AN "AMERICAN STOOGES." I URGED THAT, IF
VENEZUELAN CAN BE PERSUADED TO MOVE AHEAD, GOE
INDICATE ITS APPROVAL FOR SUCH DEBATE. FAHMY REMAINED
NON-COMMITAL AND REITERATED GOE WOULD HAVE TO SEE
REACTION OF OTHER ARAB STATES.
EILTS

UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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